

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 SCA-01 SCS-03 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

RSR-01 /113 W

----- 030167

O 242020 Z MAY 73 ZFF6

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8917

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0955

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS CASC MOPS, RHBK ZA

SUBJECT: MAY 15 BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT

REF: OTTAWA 1220

1. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER REQUESTS FOLLOWING BE
CONVEYED TO EXAFF ASAP.

2. QUOTE: TELEX TO OTT (MIN) FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY
NO. 427 MAY 24.

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

MINISTER OUT OF TOWN TODAY BUT MESSAGE CONVEYED THAT I
REQUESTED MEETING WHICH WAS ARRANGED IMMEDIATELY ON
HIS ARRIVAL IN LUSAKA THIS PM. I WAS ACCOMPANIED BY
MY SECOND SECRETARY.

3. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT MINSTER WAS SHAKEN BY EVENTS.

4. I RELATED TO HIM THE POINTS WHICH WERE MADE IN YOUR TEL
AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE CANADIAN GOVT
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ATTACHED TO THIS MATTER. I ALSO EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH WERE CONFRONTING YOU BY THIS LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND FRANKNESS.

5. I PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE MUTUAL ADVANTAGE OF BOTH COUNTRIES THAT THIS MATTER BE TREATED WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND URGENCY AND THAT IT NOT BE ALLOWED TO DAMAGE OUR PRESENT FRIENDLY RELATIONS. I MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. I INDICATED WHERE I FELT THE INVESTIGATIONS VARIED WITH REPORTS WE HAD RECEIVED AND WITH OUR OWN PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA.

6. THE MINISTER WAS EMBARRASSED BECAUSE HE SAID HE WAS NOT IN THE COUNTRY ON THE DATE OF THE INCIDENT AND ONLY RETURNED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON OF THE DAY THE COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED -- MAY 18.

7. HE SAID HE MUCH REGRETTED WE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN PRIOR NOTICE OF COMMUNIQUE AND THAT HE ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS.

8. MY OWN IMPRESSION IS THAT THE MFA NEVER HAD MUCH TO SAY RE COMMUNIQUE.

9. BE THAT AS IT MAY, HE STRESSED THAT THEY WERE VIRTUALLY AT WAR WITH RHODESIA AND GAVE EXAMPLES WHICH WE CAN NOT DISPUTE, E. G. , LAND MINES AND DEATHS ON THIS SIDE. HE ADDED IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT TWO CANADIANS LOST THEIR LIVES.

10. THE MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT RHODESIAN FORCES KNEW THAT ZAMBIA WAS GUARDING THIS AREA YET APPARENTLY MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DETER THE CANADIANS.

11. HE SAID THAT THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FEELINGS OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE. HE ADMITTED ERRORS IN THE COMMUNIQUE AND THAT THEY ARE NOW TRYING TO FIND THE BEST MEANS OF DEALING WITH THEM. HE WILL DISCUSS MY REPRESENTATIONS WITH THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MINISTRIES INVOLVED AND WILL SEE ME TOMORROW.

12. BEFORE CONCLUDING OUR MEETING I STRESSED ONCE AGAIN THAT
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HE KNEW FULL WELL HOW CANADA HAD STOOD BY ZAMBIA IN 1966 AND 1973. IT WAS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT YOU WERE SUPPLIED WITH SUBSTANTIVE AND FULLY SATISFACTORY STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY.

13. IT WAS EVIDENT TO ME THAT THE MINISTER WAS SYMPATHETIC TO MY REPRESENTATIONS BUT THAT HE NEEDS THE OPPORTUNITY TO

DISCUSS THIS WITH THE PRESIDENT BEFORE COMMUNICATING
FORMALLY TO US. BROADBRIDGE.

UNQUOTE.
NELSON

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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